SimLa Innovations

Project:	**Wound Vac**
Materials:	Small dehumdifier
Cost:	$4.00 (thrift store)
Time:	~ 1 hour

Details: One of my lab co-conspirators wanted me to hack her a wound vac. At ~$2,000, we didn't have the budget, but had the need. So, I began my search. I found a small room dehumidifier (Image 'A'). The unit would have been ineffective for its intended purpose (probably why it was at the thrift store), so I re-purposed it into a working wound vac. I drilled out a hole large enough to fit a Yankauer suction tube. This tube runs from the back of the device to the 'vacuum' port of your simlab's headwall unit (this is hidden from students). The other end attaches to an expired or donated wound vac dressing system (Image 'B'). Students can dress and pack a wound, attach the wound vac, turn it on (at the same time you turn on the headwall suction unit) and watch the wound vac dressing actually depress into the wound. Since it is emptying into the suction unit, you can put in as much wound exudate as you desire *(FYI: rinse well when done, or mold will grow in the tubing – oh, and I thought it was ironic that the dehumidifier was an 'Eva-Dry').*

Image 'A'

Image 'B'